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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/771,256	02/02/2004	Xavier Anguera Miro	9432-000259	3247
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HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303				
EXAMINER				
OPSASNICK, MICHAEL N				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2626				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/771,256

Applicant(s)

MIRO ET AL.

Examiner

MICHAEL N. OPSASNICK

Art Unit

2626

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10, 12, 13, 19-24, 28, 30, 31, 37-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 11, 14-18, 25-27, 29 and 32-36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Final Drawing Review (PTO-848)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6,10,12-13,19-24,28,30,31,37-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shimomura et al (6952665).

As per claim 1, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches:

A multilingual text-to-speech system, comprising: a source datastore of primary source parameters providing information mainly about a speaker of a primary language (As storing information about the english language – as dictionary database – col. 4 line 35); a plurality of primary filter parameters providing information mainly about sounds in the primary language (as acoustic model database – col. 4 line 18); and a plurality of secondary filter parameters providing information mainly about sounds in a secondary language (and grammar database – col. 4 line 19), wherein at least one secondary filter parameter is normalized to the primary filter parameters and mapped to a primary source

parameter (as normalizing the translation(abstract) using the knowledge database and dialog history storage unit – fig. 7, subblock 46).

As per claim 2, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a normalization module adapted to normalize the secondary filter parameters to the primary filter parameters (as normalization of the filter parameters based on intonation, rhythm, etc. – col. 6 lines 3-11)

As per claim 3, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a mapping module adapted to map the secondary filter parameters to the primary source parameters based on linguistic similarities between target sounds in the secondary language and primary source parameters in the primary language (as the mapping between the primary source and secondary language parameters – col. 6 lines 1-7).

As per claim 4, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising: an input receptive of text; and a speech synthesizer adapted to convert the text-to-speech based on said primary filter parameters and said secondary filter parameters (as text input and speech output using dictionary, grammar and phoneme databases – Fig. 4)

As per claim 5, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising an input receptive of an initial set of secondary filter parameters (as initialized parameters – fig. 9, subblock 42, updated based on dialog history storage unit – Fig. 9, subblock 47).

As per claim 6, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches the system of claim 5, further comprising a similarity assessment module adapted to assess similarity between the initial set of secondary filter parameters and said primary filter parameters (as measuring a similarity between the input translated text and the dictionary/grammar information -- col. 4 lines 58-65).

As per claim 10, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said secondary filter parameters are selected based on at least one of their relationships to sounds not present in the primary language and their dissimilarities to said primary filter parameters (as choosing the appropriate response based on the input translation, including ignoring parameters that do not apply -- col. 8 lines 32-57).

As per claims 12,13, Shimomura et al (6952665) teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of primary prosody parameters, wherein at least one secondary filter parameter is mapped to a primary prosody parameter (as controlling pauses, accents, intonations, and other prosodic parameters - col. 6 lines 5-11).

As per claim 19. A method of operation for use with a multilingual text-to-speech system, comprising: accessing primary source parameters providing information mainly about a speaker of a primary language; accessing primary filter parameters providing information mainly about sounds in the primary language; and accessing secondary filter parameters providing information mainly about sounds in a secondary language, wherein at least one secondary filter parameter is normalized to the primary filter parameters and mapped to a primary source parameter.

Claims 19-24,28,30,31,37-45 are method/system claims that similar in scope and content to the system claims of claims 1-6,10,12,13 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale as present above.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7-9,11,14-18,25-27,29,32-36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the claim limitations pertaining to the allocation of certain primary and secondary parameters based upon memory constraints is not explicitly taught by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please see related art listed on the PTO-892 form.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (571)272-7623, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Richemond Dorvil, can be reached at (571)272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Michael N. Opsasnick/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626

9/22/08